

Remarks

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 were pending. In this paper, claims 1 and 3 are canceled without prejudice, claims 2, 4, 8, and 13 are amended, claims 5-7 and 9-12 are unchanged, and new claims 14 and 15 are submitted for consideration. Hence, claims 2 and 4-15 now are pending.

New claim 14 is a combination of claims 1 and 3, which resulted in claims 1 and 3 being canceled. Hence, claim 14 does not represent new matter.

Each of claims 2, 4, 8, and 13 is amended in view of its respective dependency from new claim 14. None of these amendments is a narrowing amendment.

Claim 4 also is amended to change the location of a phrase. Hence, the amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim. In the Office action, claim 4 was deemed as being free of the prior art. Hence, the amendments to claim 4 are not made in response to a rejection, and do not represent or result in any disclaimer of territory (per the *Festo* line of cases) between the original claim and the amended claim.

New claim 15 is similar to claim 11, but depends from claim 8 rather than claim 10.

The allowability of claims 6, 7, and 10 is acknowledged with thanks.

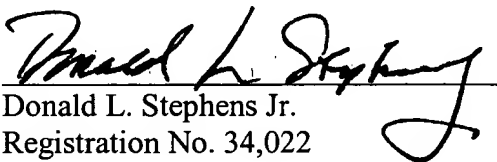
Claim 3 was denoted in the Office action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 14 is such a claim, being a combination of canceled claims 1 and 3. Hence, claim 14 and all claims depending therefrom are properly allowable. In the Office action, claim 3 was deemed as being free of the prior art. Hence, claim 14 is not presented in response to a rejection, and does not represent or result in any disclaimer of territory (per the *Festo* line of cases) between the original claim 3 and new claim 14.

The replacement of claims 1 and 3 with new claim 14 renders moot the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2 and 4-15 are properly allowable, and early action to such end is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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